

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, LB 852, which was heard in the Government Committee on March 28th and then was advanced to the floor with a six supportive votes, did suggest a minor amendment to the bill which is now the committee amendment. That amendment simply adds some clarifying language to make sure that it's clear that if a person is a family member and a person becomes head of that department that that would not require the person to be terminated at that point but would continue on in their effective activity. The clarification is such that it helps make it a little bit clearer in terms of exactly what the time is and the sequence and whether someone is already in a department, a specific department, and appointment is made that that person is not terminated. So, with that, I offer the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the committee amendments. Senator Nelson, do you wish to speak? Okay. Does anyone wish to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, we will vote on the motion to adopt the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Speaker Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Madam President and colleagues, LB 852 is a bill that came about...I'm sure you remember the press coverage that came about at the beginning of the session when the Governor decided to appoint Ron Tussing as the head of the State Patrol and at that time...and his daughter was a member of the State Patrol. At that time, the Attorney General brought forward the idea that there was a good possibility that this was against the nepotism laws that had been established a long time ago in this state. So, in order to avoid any kind of court cases and to avoid a long, protracted fight in the courts as to whether or not Ron Tussing could be the head of the department and his daughter can serve as a State Patrolman, I introduced a bill on behalf of the Governor to try and clear this up for now. I do